

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 /080 W

----- 057465

R 161242Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2853

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 16768

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, IN

SUBJECT: SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 16716 (NOTAL)

1. MEA JOINT SECRETARY (EAST ASIA) JHA TOLD POL COUNSELOR DEC. 15 THAT FONSEC'S CONVERSATION WITH CHINESE CHARGE (REFTEL) HAD OCCURRED IN AUGUST (I.E., AFTER THE INDIAN EMERGENCY WAS DECLARED, AND ABOUT FOUR MONTHS AGO). JHA DID NOT SUGGEST WHAT HAD PROMPTED THE INDIAN APPROACH, NOR DOES OUR REVIEW OF EVENTS IN JULY/AUGUST SUGGEST ANY SPECIFIC EVENTS WHICH MIGHT HAVE PROMPTED SUCH AN OVERTURE.

2. CONCEIVABLY, THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE EMERGENCY MAY HAVE SUGGESTED A FREER HAND FOR THE GOI DOMESTICALLY IN TERMS OF POSSIBLE PUBLIC REACTION TO AN INDIAN INITIATIVE TO PEKING. SEVERAL FOREIGN DIGNITARIES VISITING PEKING IN EARLY FALL WERE REPORTED TO HAVE HAD PUT OUT FEELERS ON RELATIONS WITH INDIA (ALL NEGATIVE) AND FONSEC KEWAL SINGH'S AUGUST APPROACH MAY SIMPLY HAVE BEEN THE INDIAN "LEAD IN" TO GIVE THE CHINESE AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND. IN ANY EVENT, JHA COMMENTED, THERE SEEMED TO BE NO SIGN OF ANY CHINESE MOVEMENT TO
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IMPROVE RELATIONS AT THIS POINT ALTHOUGH THE CHINESE HAD BEEN

CONTENT TO LET THE OCT. 20 BORDER INCIDENT DIE A NATURAL AND
QUICK DEATH.

3. JHA OBSERVED, INCIDENTALLY, THAT HE HAD NOT THOUGHT THE
BORDER INCIDENT WAS IN ANY WAY RELATAD TO BANGLADESH DEVELOP-
MENTS NOR DID HE EXPECT THAT THE CHINESE WOULD NECESSARILY
IMMEDIATELY BE UP TO MISCHIEF IN BANGLADESH WHEN THEY
ESTABLISH A MISSION IN DACCA. TO SOME EXTENT, HOWEVER, HE
SAID THIS LAST WOULD DEPEND ON THE THE ATTITUDE OF THE BDG
ITSELF.
SAXBE

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